Revised date 20/07/2011

Rokeby Fire Station

Address: Grange Road West, Rokeby

Practice: Howroyd & Forward

Designed: 1978 Completed: 1979

History & Description

The Rokeby Fire Station is located at the edge of the town of Rokeby in a rural setting along the Grange Road West. The site selected was strategically placed to service the district east of the Tasman Highway around Rokeby, Howrah & Clarendon Vale. Designed by the firms then principal designer Richard Mochelle the original building was composed of five parallel elongated attached white 'pavilions' each with an individual gabled roof. A sixth pavilion has been added along the western side, set back from the front. The two fire engines are garaged in the higher double-gable roofed structure on the eastern side. The fire engines are clearly visible from the road through fully glazed tilt-up doors. The lower western multi-gabled roof structure provides accommodation for the fire offices including sleeping quarters.

The community has been provided with a somewhat extrovert & fun loving fire station which combines a vernacular reference to village buildings with simple geometric forms referencing classical motifs. The front façade is layered. The original central gabled façade, with a circular window in an oversized frame or 'plain moulding', is set forward of the adjoining pavilions & is articulated from the higher fire engine garage which is set back behind a full-height 'portico' with double 'pediment'. The original western pavilion, with a rectangular window & 'plain moulding' is set forward of the adjoining pavilion but slightly back from the central pavilion. The adjoining pavilion has full-width recessed windows below a pediment, which references back to the double pediments of the fire engine garage. The curved & stepped white blockwork wall to the east addresses the corner of the building onto the station's carpark. The roofs are clad in corrugated iron, coloured red to the accommodation side & galvanized to the garage.

The design of the fire station in 1978 closely followed the period of design for a number of church buildings by Edmond & Corrigan in Victoria between 1974 & 1979.

The Rokeby Fire Station was awarded the 1979 Tasmanian Chapter's Triennial Design Award.

Statement of Significance

The Rokeby Fire Station is an excellent example of the Post-Modern style of architecture evident in the scale & extroversion of the building as well as an embracing of urban vernacular & a sense of fun with it's 'toy-town' like appearance of the repeated gabled structure & oversized fenestration. It has added significance in that it pioneered a new urban design approach as Tasmania's first civic building in this style of architecture & was one of the earliest of this style in Australia.

Criteria Applicable

N1. Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design

North view.

Fire engine garages behind a double 'pediment portico'.

View towards 'stepped facade' accommodation 'pavilions'.

NW view. Note layered façade & 'moulding' to circular window. Source: Leigh Woolley & Paul Johnston.